

EIGHT YOUTH CULTURE FESTIVALS TO BE HELD IN 2001
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The national youth division leaders recently announced plans to sponsor eight youth culture festivals—one in each of SGI-USA’s zones—next year. The goal is to gather a total of 100,000 people at eight locations. Each event will feature a chorus of Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy.”

The youth division plans to hold various summer activities this year in preparation toward the 2001 festivals. This fall, the SGI-USA will celebrate the 40th anniversary of SGI President Ikeda’s first visit to the United States, which began on Oct. 2, 1960.

General Director Daniel Nagashima commented that “victory for the year 2001—no, victory for the 21st century—will be decided by the SGI-USA this year. Sticking to our theme The Power of One, we will take the lead in raising youth division members, sharing this Buddhism, promoting our publications and strengthening our Soka Spirit movement.”

President Ikeda recently told the SGI-USA national leaders that “the most noble life is one dedicated to a great purpose, for the sake of others and society. A life dedicated to pursuing immediate desires—in other words, a life with no responsibilities—is a base, animalistic life.” He expressed his hope that, centering on General Director Nagashima and Women’s Leader Matilda Buck, SGI-USA will advance in beautiful harmony as “the model of the world.”